

# GRAPEVINE MARCH 2006



*East Asia Pacific*

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# --- ECA STATE DEPARTMENT ---

*Dorothy Mora*

*Educational Information & Resources Branch (ECA/A/S/A)*

*Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs*

*US Department of State*

Dear Advisors:

Greetings from Washington! 2006 certainly started off with some excitement as the State Department hosted a U.S. University Presidents Summit in Washington DC. It was impressive to see such high interest in increasing the numbers of international students in the U.S. We are hoping that this summit will encourage groups of U.S. university presidents to visit your countries and advising centers in the next few months. I'll send more information via the listserv when I can. Please do send me highlights of your work or issues with which you are dealing. Receiving them makes it much easier for me to understand your needs and challenges as advisers, and helps me be a strong advocate for educational advising here in Washington.

## **LISTSERV MESSAGES**

Please let me know if you do not receive listserv messages for several days.

It is important that I keep the listserv e-mails updated so that you may continue to receive important messages.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**PAL** - Congratulations to Erica Sjarif who was selected to be a Professional Advising Leadership Fellow (PAL) and will come to Washington, DC in April! She joins our East Asia group of PALs, which include Mila Tan from the Philippines, Udval Lhamsuren from Mongolia and Judy Freudenberger from Australia. PAL Fellows do research in an area such as sports scholarships, medical education or graduate admissions, and post reports on the advisers website (under the professional development tab) located at:

[www.educationusa.state.gov](http://www.educationusa.state.gov). You will need to enter your center code and password to access this site. Please send me an e-mail at MoraDD@state.gov if you need this information.

**USBT** - This year we had so many fine applications for USBT that we decided to add another program. The following people have been selected to participate in either the Fall 2006 or 2007 programs. Congratulations to: Carol Crass from Australia, Zhang Zhe and Zhusa from China, Umiati Jawas from Indonesia, Munkyeong Yu from Korea, Kaliswary Subramaniam from Malaysia, Karen Kaylor from Singapore, Michael Kretzmer, Sutthichok Linprasert, and Chutkaew Ratanachamnong from Thailand, and Chi-Pei Chow from Taiwan.

## **STATE ALUMNI WEBSITE**

USBT and PAL alumni, please make sure you are registered on the Alumni.State.gov website. Included on the site are:

A calendar of upcoming professional events in every region of the globe  
Free Research Database of Academic Journals  
Job listings, and career development information  
Grant opportunity listings  
Live online discussions

For more information, please contact State Alumni at [webmaster@alumni.state.gov](mailto:webmaster@alumni.state.gov).

#### **VIRTUAL CONSULTING OFFICE (VCO) UPDATE (from Coleen Gatehouse)**

The VCO is a cross-regional website created and run by a team of EducationUSA advisers. Based on a site developed by US-Based Training alumni in Eurasia, which has been serving Russian-speaking students since January, 2003, the VCO will begin providing general information and basic advising in Arabic, Chinese, English, Russian, and Spanish in March, 2006. To learn more about this project in EAP, please contact Frank Mok ([frankmok@iiebeijing.org](mailto:frankmok@iiebeijing.org)) or Mila Tan ([mtan@paef.org.ph](mailto:mtan@paef.org.ph)), the team leaders for the Chinese- and English-language sections.

#### **EAST ASIA/PACIFIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE UPDATE**

The dates for our regional conference have been moved from 2007 to early 2008. Budget and travel issues last fiscal year made it necessary to reschedule one of our other regional conferences resulting in a change to our world-wide conference schedule. I am sorry that I will not have the pleasure of seeing most of you in 2007, but will look forward to a wonderful conference in 2008.

Finally, please let me, or our Regional Educational Advising Coordinator, Dr. Chalintorn Burian, know if you have any questions or ideas on any of these topics, or advising in general. I wish everyone a pleasant spring!

Warmest regards,

Dorothy Mora

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## **REAC NEWS**

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*Chalintorn Burian*

*Regional Education Advising Coordinator for East Asia and the Pacific (REAC-EAP)  
Educational Information & Resources Branch (ECA/A/S/A)*

Thank you, Shannon Maguire, for putting together this Grapevine edition. [\[No problem—it's a great way to introduce myself to the other advisors in the region!\]](#)

I hope the New Year brings you all peace and success.

#### **REAC's TRAVEL**

The last few months have been busy for me. As invited by REAC Kathleen Kisting Alam, I participated in the Regional Conference for South Asia and the Gulf States in Colombo, Sri Lanka in early December. The sessions I attended were very interesting.

Unfortunately, I had to leave the conference early to conduct a presentation on “Consular Public Diplomacy Initiatives: Student/Exchange Visa” to participants of the EAP Consular Leadership Development Conference in Kuala Lumpur. Because the conferences overlapped, I missed two full days of learning experience at the South Asia Conference, as well as additional opportunities to network with participants.

On December 14-15, I visited Japan-United States Educational Commission (JUSEC) in Tokyo, Japan. It was very nice to see both Miyuki Watanabe and Chizuru Sasada again, and to meet Atsuko Ichikawa for the first time. I appreciate all at JUSEC for their hospitality and friendship.

I participated in the REACs Meeting in Washington DC on February 8-10. In addition to getting reconnected with the 5 old REACs (Kathleen Alam could not attend the meeting, due to a health problem), I met with Wesley Teter, the new REAC for Europe, for the first time. Under the leadership of Mary Thompson-Jones, we got a lot done during the three days. It was also very nice to spend time with Dorothy, sorting out many issues and solving the world’s (our EAP world) problems.

## **YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO REAC**

Thanks to all of you who sent in the information about your International Education Week (November 14-18).

Also thanks for submitting names and addresses of advising centers to me so I could send them to REAC Kathleen Alam, in order that she can ship EducationUSA banners to you soon.

Although I put together the information on equipment/computer needs, with which you provided me, to ECA, I have not heard whether there will be a budget for these items this year. Stay tuned.

Thanks for sending your country briefing and statistics so that Panitnat could put together the “Stats at a Glance” and “Country Briefing” for ECA.

Those who indicated their wish to receive NAFSA subscription as part of their book allowance should now have a NAFSA subscription, either at Tier I or Tier II. The list, based on your inputs, has been submitted to ECA.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Congratulations to Erica Sjarif (AMINEF, Indonesia) who has been selected to participate in the Professional Advising Leadership (PAL) program.

Congratulations to all who have been selected to attend conferences in 2006. I hope you are pleased that ECA now have a yearly plan for advisors’ professional development. It’s a great idea to have a holistic plan.

Please note that there will be a workshop, *Training for Beginning Advisors*, on April 3-6, 2006 in Chiangmai, Thailand. This is co-organized by the REAC Office at the Institute of International Education (IIE) and the EducationUSA Advising Center at the International Center (IC-ACE) at Chiangmai University in Thailand. We are pleased to have Frank Mok, Preeyawan (Ann) Sakornyen, Mike Hock and Mike Kretzmer as our trainers/facilitators. Since the South Pacific Sub-region will hold their own training-workshop on February 23-25, this activity is available for new advisors from East and Southeast Asian countries.

**NEXT.....**

- Soon you will receive guidelines for book orders. The book order system is based on the list of active advising centers. Therefore, all who have responded to my request for updated information about your centers, will certainly be on the book order list.
- I will participate in the South Pacific Workshop on February 23-25 in Sydney, Australia.
- I will also participate in the Fulbright EAP Regional Conference on February 27 – March 2, also in Sydney.
- I will visit the Korean-American Educational Commission (KAEC) in Seoul, Korea on March 27-28; and attend the conference on “Trends and Changes in Asia-Pacific Higher Education,” organized by the Asia-Pacific Association for International Education (APAIE) on March 29-April 1, also in Seoul.
- The Training for Beginning Advisors, will be held on April 3-6, 2006 in Chiang Mai, Thailand.
- On my way to NAFSA Conference in Montreal in May, I plan to visit Taiwan. Thanks to Judy Chow in advance for coordinating my visit in Taipei.
- I will still need to get input from those from whom I have not heard regarding the training/development activities that each advisor has received. I want to have an inventory of what we have done for your professional development. This is very useful for planning your future training/conferences participation. Mike Kretzmer will be in touch with you to make sure we have a complete list. Once finished, the list will be very easy to update each year, so we will not have to “reinvent the wheel,” so to speak. Thanks in advance for your patience and cooperation.
- The next EAP Grapevine Newsletter, which will be published on July 1, 2006, will be edited by Mongolia. Thanks to Udval Lhamsuren in advance for taking this responsibility.

Warmest regards to you all.

Chalintorn

# AUSTRALIA

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***Judy Freudenberger***

***U.S. Educational Advisor and Sub-regional Coordinator for the South Pacific***

***U.S. Embassy***

***Canberra, ACT***

## **SUB-REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL ADVISING WORKSHOP**

This month (February) a Sub-Regional Educational Advising workshop will take place in Sydney, Australia. Advisers from the 5 Australian EducationUSA centers will be participating, as well as our new colleagues from Marshall Islands, PNG, Fiji, Brunei, Micronesia and New Zealand. As you can see, the South Pacific family of advisers has grown tremendously! We also look forward to welcoming our EAP REAC Chalintorn Burian to the workshop, as well as the embassy's PAO and CAO. We are still hoping that Dorothy Mora's travel will be approved, so that she can make her first visit Down Under and contribute to workshop sessions and discussions. In the next issue of The Grapevine we will be sharing workshop news with you.

## **NAFSA UPDATE**

I am also busy at present, with organizing the Pre-NAFSA Campus Visit Program. As in the past, this program will allow advisers the opportunity to visit a cluster of host campuses in the week prior to NAFSA. The host institutions provide accommodation, meals, and local transportation.

Advisers need to secure funding to include travel for the beginning and end of the program in which they participate. This year the pre-NAFSA campus visit programs will take place 14-20 May, with advisers traveling to Montreal on 20 May. I will be announcing the locations of the campus visit programs towards the end of February, and will be looking forward to quick responses from all of the EAP advisers who will be fortunate enough to be attending NAFSA. All advisers will be advised of their program placement in early March, so don't make your airline reservations until then!

All centers in Australia are busy preparing for the Sub-Regional workshop as well as yet another busy year of presentations.

Regards,  
Judy

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## F.S. MICRONESIA

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***Gary Bloom***  
***Public Diplomacy Assistant***  
***U. S. Embassy, Federated States of Micronesia***

Introducing myself, I am the new Public Diplomacy / Economic / Education / Environment / Private Sector Development Assistant for the U. S. Embassy here in the Federated States of Micronesia. I am new in this position, so I do not yet have any information regarding advising issues in the FSM. I will be attending the PD Training in Canberra and the follow-on Sub-Regional Educational Advising Workshop in Sydney later this month, so I am confident that I will have more information for the next newsletter.

I am a retired U. S. Naval Reservist and a former U.S. Naval Aviator (Lockheed C-130 Mission Commander and Aircraft Commander). I am also a licensed attorney. I just started working at USEK on 09 January 2006. From mid-May 2002 until 06 January 2006, I was the AusAID Senior Programme Officer at the Australian Embassy here in Kolonia. In that capacity, I provided in-country management for all of the Commonwealth's Regional and Bilateral Development Assistance Programmes for three countries--the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau. Before that, for five years I was the Executive Administrator for the FSM's only licensed Insurance Brokerage. Prior to this, I was the Operations Manager



for five years for the most successful hotel/taxi/car rental business in Micronesia. I have lived in Pohnpei since June of 1992, when I moved here after going off active duty with the Navy followed by a two-year stint in Seminary working on a Masters of Divinity degree.

I am married to a lovely Pohnpeian lady, and we have six children of our own, as well as six adopted children. We reside in Mwalok Village (the Municipal Seat of Government) on Sokehs Island, just off-shore from the main island of Pohnpei proper in Pohnpei State in the Federated States of Micronesia.

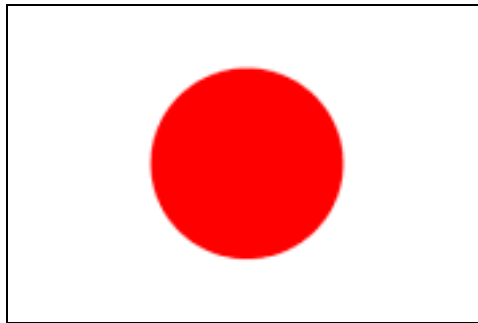
Our post has not done much educational advising to-date, other than to Micronesian citizens applying to the four U.S. Service Academies (Army, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard), which they are able to do under the Compact of Free Association between the USA and FSM.

Kind Regards,  
Gary

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## JAPAN

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***Miyuki Watanabe***  
***Manager***  
***Educational Advising Service (EAS)***  
***The Japan-U.S. Educational Commission (JUSEC)***

### **FULBRIGHT CENTENNIAL MUSIC CONCERT**

As a part of the Fulbright Centennial Celebrations, a special concert was held on Saturday, February 4, 2006, featuring world renowned musicians (and Fulbrighters), Mr. Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi (cellist) and Ms. Etsko Tazaki (pianist) at Tsuda Hall in Sendagaya, Tokyo. The concert was organized in cooperation with the Japan GARIOA/Fulbright Alumni Associations and the Japan-U.S. Educational Exchange Promotion Foundation

(Fulbright Foundation). In addition, Tsuda Institute provided support through the use of their halls at a very reasonable rate and United Airlines generously donated two roundtrip business class tickets between Bloomington, Indiana and Tokyo for Mr. Tsutsumi and his cello. The International University of Health and Welfare also supported the program by buying advertising space in the concert program. Tickets were sold for 4,000 yen (reserved seats) and 3,000 yen (non reserved seats) starting November 1, 2005. The concert was very popular and tickets were in high demand. Tickets for the general public were sold out by mid-January, 2006 and of the 490 seats available, all but one seat had been spoken for by the start of the concert. Over 425 people actually attended the concert, enjoying an afternoon of wonderful music and a rare opportunity to hear these two talented Fulbrighters.

### **VISA BRIEFING SESSIONS**

The Consular Section of the American Embassy provided visa briefing sessions. One session was held on February 2 exclusively for JUSEC staff regarding J visa (Fulbright), in particular, and the visa processing that takes place once the Consular Section receives visa application documents. Another session was held on February 7 for Japanese universities and educational organizations of international exchange programs regarding non-immigrant (F, J, M-visas) application procedures. These sessions were extremely useful for JUSEC staff who need to provide accurate and updated information on visa application procedures.

### **JAOS AND FGER MEETING**

EAS will participate in a JAOS and FGER meeting on February 10 at Mainichi Communications. JAOS (Japan Association of Overseas Studies) is the association of study-abroad agencies, and FGER (Foreign Government Education Representatives) is comprised of Embassy staff and others who provide information and advice to Japanese students on study-abroad opportunities. EAS is a member of FGER. FGER meetings are held a few times a year, but the JAOS and FGER joint meeting is held only once a year. This joint meeting provides an opportunity to discuss current issues and exchange ideas on various trends of Japanese student flows.

Although Japanese students studying in the U.S. decreased by 11.2% in 2003-04, the number of Japanese students in other English speaking countries did not increase significantly during this period. Therefore, active recruiting of other English speaking countries was most likely not a big factor in the decline of Japanese students.

### **VISITOR'S SEMINAR**

A visitor's seminar was held in the JUSEC conference room on February 13. Five representatives from Central Florida Community College (FL), Delaware County Community College (PA), Moraine Valley Community College (IL), Skagit Valley College (WA) and West Hills College (CA) will participate in the seminar.

Another visitor's seminar on colleges in California will be held on April 17. Three representatives from Foothill and DeAnza Colleges, California State University-Chico, and San Francisco State University plan to participate in the seminar.

These seminars are appreciated by both Japanese prospective students and U.S. institutions as a means to meet each other face to face. Although the main purpose of the seminars is to introduce U.S. higher education in general, it seems that some institutions think visitor's seminars provide a better opportunity to present institutions more effectively than the U.S. university fairs.

Guideline of Visitor's Seminar: <http://www.fulbright.jp/e4/guideline.pdf>

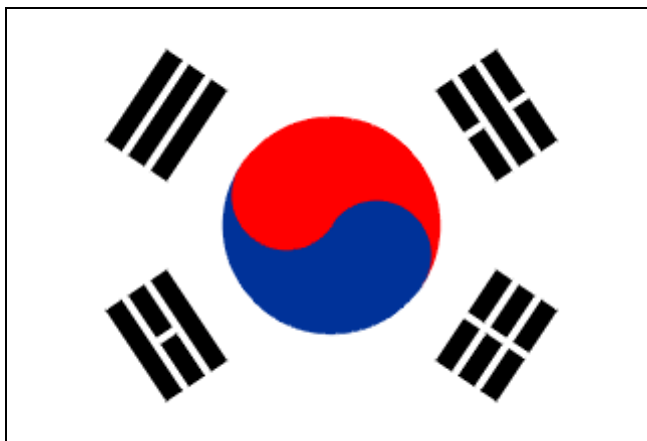
### **ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)**

Ms. Maria Lesser of the College Board visited JUSEC last week. She informed that AP (Advanced Placement) will be introduced in Japan, and that Japanese and Chinese languages were added to AP recently. She visited American/international schools, Temple University Japan Campus and International Christian University during her stay. She plans to visit Japan again in July to conduct teacher training programs for AP Japanese courses.

Currently, AP is not accepted for credit at Japanese universities. However, she said she will negotiate with the Ministry of Education in Japan so that AP credits may be recognized by the Japanese educational system.

# KOREA

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*Munkyeong Yu*  
*Educational Advisor*  
*USEC*  
*Fulbright, Korea*

## **EXPECTED LAUNCH OF NEW U.S. EDUCATION CENTER WEBSITE**

We have completely revamped our website with a fresh new look. In addition, we have translated into Korean many portions of the EducationUSA website, including information on everything from starting a school search to living in the U.S. We hope that the updates will provide our students and U.S. schools with added convenience. Expect to see it soon.

## **iBT TOEFL TO LAUNCH SOON**

The internet-based TOEFL (iBT) is scheduled to launch in May of this year. The current computer-based TOEFL (CBT) will continue through late May, but will then be phased out. ETS (Educational Testing Service) will present the complete schedule for TOEFL in Korea later this year.

## **TOEFL REGISTRATION CRAZE**

With the looming switch of TOEFL from computer-based testing to Internet-based testing, students and parents have swarmed our offices and phone lines in recent weeks. Most are seeking to register for a spot to take the computer-based TOEFL before it is phased out. The demand has been astounding. After opening, registration tickets for all of

April were sold out within less than a week. The total number of seats for April is approximately 15,000. More recently, testing spots have also opened for May and traffic has been steady.

### **US-BASED TRAINING GRANT**

We are very proud of our Senior Education Advisor, Yu Mun-Kyeong, for being selected for US Based Training. She will be traveling to the United States for three weeks this Fall, where she hopes to broaden her knowledge of the U.S. education system and the college admission procedure.



# PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA



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***Frank Mok***  
***U.S.-China Education Resource Coordinator***  
***Beijing, China***

## **POPULAR CAFÉ IN BEIJING RECEIVED U.S. EDUCATION MATERIAL**

A popular café in the university district in Beijing, Sculpting In Time/Speakeasy, gladly received a package of material from the PAS Beijing and IIE-China. The package included listings of U.S. colleges, some testing preparation textbooks, and catalogs and application forms from various U.S. colleges. This is a new location for such distribution and yet another effort from Beijing PAS to actively reach out to student population in China in promoting U.S. education.

'We are a popular hang out for Chinese university students, and we provide English classes to them. Many of the students are interested in studying in the U.S., and these books will be very helpful to them,' said Nell Chan, manager of the café.

## **EDUCATION WEB CHAT REACHES 7300 STUDENTS IN CHINA**

Mr. Frank Mok, U.S.-China Education Resource Coordinator and Mr. Jeff Seals, Vice Consul from the Consulate Office in Beijing Embassy participated in a webchat session on Sina.com, one of the largest web portal in China. There were about 7,300 audiences that joined the chatroom for the event, and both Mr. Mok and Mr. Seals answered a several questions from the school application process to details about applying for an F-1 visa.

For the Chinese transcript of the session, please click:  
<http://edu.sina.com.cn/a/2006-02-15/1923132718.html>

## SHARING EXPERIENCE ON MARKETING EDUCATION WITH THE U.K.

Frank Mok was invited to speak at the first Annual China Country Partners Meeting organized by the British Council, China. In a 30-minute presentation entitled 'Marketing U.S. Education in China', Frank shared with 60 higher education institutions from the U.K. about the EducationUSA model, including PAS's efforts in promoting U.S. education in Beijing and other posts in China, and how various organizations and sections in the Embassy (IIE, NIV and FCS) work toward the same goal, and the favorable result it has shown for the year 2005.

Some British schools expressed their amazement at how quickly the trends in student numbers have changed, and the amount of work the office managed to achieved in 2005, considering that the resources for marketing US education in China were significantly less than those of the British Council.

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## SINGAPORE

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***Karen Kaylor, Director  
USEIC Singapore***

The usual January rush hit USEIC with a particular flourish this year. Our advising center members clamored for our attention to deal with their last minute application details. Amy and Brooke pulled the most weight, as I needed to make a quick trip back to the US to deal with family matters. We read and vetted dozens of essays...the comic relief provided by Doonsbury cartoons on this very topic helped ease the tedium.

During the February student lull, preparations for our Spring education fair (sheduled for March 16) have proceeded apace. We have 18 booths sold, exactly the same number as last year at this time. A mix of colleges, universities, and service providers will be in

attendance. Our venue is the same as last fall, so the logistics have been smoother as the hotel has already experienced one education fair.

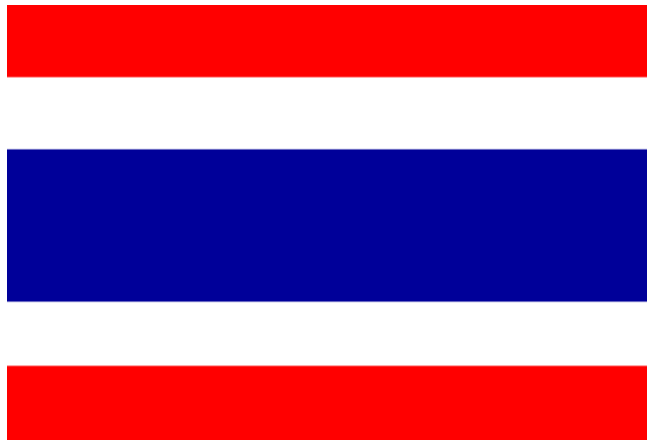
Singapore school results will be released soon. We expect a number of hopeful students will drop by our office in anticipation of applying to US universities for Fall 2006. Unfortunately for them, a number of “choice” universities have closed their admissions exercise for this year. Nonetheless, as we all know, there are plenty of great schools in the US and surely we can find a super match for each and every one of them.

I look forward to seeing many of you at NAFSA in Montreal.

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## THAILAND

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### **BANGKOK**

***Michael Kretzmer***

***Assistant Director, Southeast Asia***

***Institute of International Education Bangkok***

### **INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK**

The highlight of International Education week was the series of workshops and the debate that IIE held in conjunction with the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok. On November 15, the Embassy invited members of IIE, about 100 students and teachers, and two guest speakers for a day of sharing and learning. In the morning, we held two workshops, “How to Communicate Effectively in English” and “Preparing for the TOEFL iBT,” to interested students.







After lunch, the fun really started, as students from Triam Udom Suksa School went head-to-head with students from Mahidol Wittaya Nusorn School in an English debate. The topic of this debate was "Learning English Before Going Abroad vs. Going Abroad to Learn English." The students from both schools did a marvelous job and put on a spectacular show. They were thought provoking, funny, dynamic, and extremely well spoken. The performance of the presenters and all the students far surpassed our expectations. In fact, the students in the debate were so good, it was almost impossible to pick a winner.

## **ONLINE TRAINING**

Mike Kretzmer and Chutkeaw (Art) Ratanachamnong collaboratively completed NAFSA's online advising program, "Foundations of International Education: Overseas Educational Advising." Although they were skeptical of online training, the course proved to be a very valuable experience. If anyone is contemplating this course, we would recommend it.

The course is broken down into six modules, and you have approximately one week to complete each module. The modules consist of online reading, perhaps some research, readings from Big Blue: Advising for Study in the United States: A Manual For Educational Advising Professionals, and one or more assignments. Some of the assignments require you to use your resources (online, library, etc.) to answer questions, some may ask you to write about experiences, and others have you compile information from a variety of mediums. Most assignments are then posted on the class web board for others to share. Part of the assignment is always to respond to one or more other students' answers. We'll admit that some lessons were more valuable than others, but the information and perspectives that you gather from all the other participants' responses on the web board is priceless. It's a good investment of your time if you're new to the game.

## **CHIANG MAI**

**Mike Hock and Sutthichok Linprasert**

**IC-ACE, The International Center, Chiang Mai University**

### **ED-EXPO USA 2005 BY IC-ACE, IN CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK**

#### **“MAGIC IN THE AIR” AT IC-ACE’S ED-EXPO USA 2005**

An impressive display of Thai and U.S. flags alongside pennants from 12 top high schools, U.S. universities and CMU’s International Center greeted over 400 visitors to IC-ACE’s EdeXpo USA 2005 on November 18. This annual educational event at Chiang Mai University’s International Center to celebrate the U.S. State Department’s International Education Week was also the opportunity for mounting challenges to become the next Champion School of the BrainFlex Plus! Olympiad.

While the Olympiad had not been designed as a “Triwizards Tournament”, the excitement in the air felt like magic was indeed all around as IC-ACE Senior Counselor Mike Hock welcomed top-notch teams from 12 high schools in Chiang Mai, Lamphun and Lampang. After a keynote briefing by California State University East Bay (public) to launch their Direct Admit Program and Scholarships for new freshmen, contestants rushed out to a “secret off-site location” (a.k.a. the American Corner) for the U.S. Education Rally-Showcase. CSU East Bay also announced US\$18,000 scholarships for English teachers to be trained in a 6-month TESOL Certificate program at their hilltop campus near San Francisco, California.

The pace then picked up with contestants running into the Global English Survivor Essay and Quiz contests after a briefing by University of San Francisco (private). Other contestants started their American Talentime Solo and Team performances, entertaining an all-schools audience and impressing the judges, who said “Outstanding performances...such talent!” Clearly, not at all like the “babbling, bumbling bands of baboons” that Professor MacGonagall worried about at Hogwarts School of Wizardry.



*(Fun for students and teachers at Ed-Expo USA 2005)*

Prince Royal’s College contestants performed well in the Olympiad by scoring a total of 195 Trophy Points, and were particularly outstanding as winners of the U.S. Education Rally-Showcase for 100 Trophy Points. The top-three winners of each contest took home exciting prizes from IC-ACE and U.S. universities (Global English & TOEFL Prep

scholarships, TOEFL ITP test vouchers, shirts, caps, bags --- alas, however, nothing from Hogwarts).

Ed-eXpo USA delivered activities relevant to teachers, students, and the public. Fulbright Program director Porntip Kanjananiyot gave two motivational talks on lifelong learning. The U.S. Vice-Consul held a workshop to explain U.S. student visa application procedures. Teachers were invited to join a TEFL & U.S. Culture Workshop, jointly sponsored by ICACE and the U.S. Embassy-RELO, “TUSC-4: Developing Effective English Student Newspaper Programs” with Jack Neale of PRC as Guest Speaker.



*(USCG Beatrice Camp with the new champions—Montfort College!)*

Ceremonies began with Trophy Bearers leading a procession of VIPs into the hall. In her keynote address, U.S. Consul General Beatrice Camp congratulated IC-ACE on becoming an EducationUSA Advising Center affiliated with the U.S. State Department as “a timely development to provide professional advising services for rising numbers of students pursuing U.S. education,” and for launching a new website, [www.ic.cmu.ac.th/ACE/edUSA.htm](http://www.ic.cmu.ac.th/ACE/edUSA.htm)

When it was announced the Champion team had scored 200 Trophy Points, the audience was electrified as U.S. Consul General Beatrice Camp awarded the Challenge Trophy to Montfort College. Montfort’s team secured victory by placing in the top 3 of every contest –a great improvement over 2004. In true sporting spirit, PRC’s team and coaches heartily congratulated the new champions, but also declared with a twinkle in their eyes, “We’ll be back in 2006....”

### **“TEACHERS WHO CARE” 2006**

For professional achievements and leadership in the field of English-language teaching, 7 respected educators were recently honored in a dignified ceremony organized by IC-ACE (an EducationUSA Advising Center) at the American Corner, Chiang Mai University. U.S. Consul General Beatrice Camp & RELO George Wilcox of the U.S. Embassy-Bangkok presented awards to the second cohort of “Teachers Who Care” before a gathering of peers, administrators and international guests. Significantly, the ceremony was broadcast via Digital Video Conferencing technology to American Corners around Thailand.

Officially known as The Joint Initiative to Recognize Distinguished Teachers of English, “Teachers Who Care” is an innovative project to identify distinguished English teachers in northern Thailand. It is jointly organized by the U.S. Embassy (RELO Office) and IC-ACE, with participation by U.S. Consulate General-Chiang Mai.

In his opening remarks, Mr. George Wilcox (U.S. Embassy’s Regional English Language Officer) noted this timely expansion of a project started in 2004 to honor & support leading English teaching professionals. Co-organizer Mike Hock of IC-ACE went on to say it was a humbling experience to meet distinguished teachers who have given so much to students and communities in major northern Thai cities of Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai, Lamphun, and Lampang.



*The Winners!*

*From left: Senior Counselor Mike Hock, IC-ACE*

*U.S. Consul General Beatrice Camp*

*Mrs. Walai Chompoorat, The Prince Royal's College, Chiang Mai*

*Mrs. Sujitra Sattayarak, Yupparaj Wittayalai School, Chiang Mai*

*Mr. Suparerk Mahawan, Suanboonyopatham Lamphun School, Lamphun*

*Mrs. Amporn Sangklub, Samakkee Wittayakom School, Chiang Rai*

*Mrs. Sungkhaya Boonma, Navamindarajudis Phayap School, Chiang Mai*

*Mrs. Pritchayaporn Aphivinitakul, Lampangkalayanee School, Lampang*

*Mr. Chainam Riddhiraksa, Chak Kham Khanathon School, Lamphun*

*RELO George Wilcox, U.S. Embassy-Bangkok*

“Teachers Who Care” have individually demonstrated their long-term dedication & leadership to advance the teaching of English and appreciation of U.S. culture & education. While congratulating the Cohort of 2006, Consul General Beatrice Camp shared her sentiments, “If they had had such awards and shown such appreciation when I was teaching English, I might still be doing so!”



*Combined cohorts of “Teachers Who Care” at the American Corner, Chiang Mai University*



Members of the First Cohort of “Teachers Who Care” were invited forward to witness the occasion, and then each new “Teacher Who Cares” received from the Consul General a handsome trophy & a Letter of Recognition. Before concluding the formalities, RELO George Wilcox presented both cohorts of “Teachers Who Care” with commemorative bags of Royal Ivory white tea from Ayana Highland Trust.

## IC-ACE “KNOWLEDGE & GROWTH” ROADSHOW AND CC2U AWARDS

(January 2006) It was perhaps a little hectic on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of January as IC-ACE embarked on a “roadshow” to The Prince Royal’s College and Montfort College for special sessions of their Distinguished Speakers Series featuring motivational talks for M.5 and M.6 students by Director Porntip Kanjananiyot of the U.S. Fulbright Scholarships Office and Dr. George Beers, Dean of International Student Programs at Foothill & De Anza Colleges, San Francisco.



Director Porntip (left picture) and Dr. Beers (below) delivered three talks on “Knowledge & Growth: The Way Forward” to share new perspectives with high school students who would soon be thinking about life beyond M.6. Dr. Beers raised the “motivation levels” by giving away loads of souvenirs from his colleges, including T-shirts, caps, and pens. The speakers then encouraged students to “design

your own future,” while balancing priorities for the pursuit of intelligence, fame, wealth, sufficiency, and happiness.

At each school, Mike Hock of IC-ACE invited M.6 students who had successfully applied for admission to Foothill & De Anza Colleges to receive their I-20 acceptance packages from Dr. Beers. While Ms. Nalada Thongsamut (right in picture) of Montfort College received her I-20 to enroll for Spring Quarter starting April 2006, Ms. Kasimon Runglertwikraikun (bottom, right) of Prince Royal’s College was handed her I-20 plus a bonus Performance Recognition Award from IC-ACE’s CC2U program worth US\$1,000.



Dr. Beers and Mike Hock jointly launched the “Expressive Valentines Contest” with over THB50,000 of prizes for winning entries in English. The deadline was February 3<sup>rd</sup>, and prizes were awarded on Valentine’s Day by Dr. Elena Garate of Santa Monica College and IC-ACE.



*Jack Neale of Prince Royal’s College (center) thanking Dr. George Beers (left) and Director Porntip (right)*



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# VIETNAM

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*Patty Esposito, Hanoi*  
*Shannon Maguire, Ho Chi Minh City*  
*Educational Advisors, IIE Vietnam*

## **IIE VIETNAM WELCOMES DR. MARK ASHWILL AS NEW DIRECTOR**

Dr. Ashwill comes to IIE Vietnam from The State University of New York at Buffalo (UB), where he served as the Director of the World Languages Institute for twelve years. He was also the Fulbright Program Adviser at UB and an adjunct instructor in the General Education Program, and had previously served as Assistant Director for Program Support in the Office of International Education. He earned his Ph.D. in Comparative and Higher Education in 1991 from the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy at UB. Dr. Ashwill has written widely on issues related to Vietnam, U.S.-Vietnam relations, Vietnamese studying overseas, international student access and equity, and the development of intercultural competence. His most recent book, *Vietnam Today: A Guide to a Nation at a Crossroads* (with Thai Ngoc Diep), was published in 2004 by Intercultural Press. He was the first American to receive a Fulbright Senior Specialists Grant to Vietnam in 2003, and he founded the nonprofit U.S.- Indochina Educational Foundation, Inc. in 2000. During 1994/95, Dr. Ashwill took a leave of absence to work as a primary researcher on the Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) Case Study Project in Germany, Japan and the U.S. He was a Research Associate at the University of Michigan's Center for Human Growth and Development, and a visiting scholar at the University of Frankfurt in Germany and Northwestern University.



## **ADVISING ONLINE WITH YAHOO! INSTANT MESSENGER**

IIE recently started providing students with the opportunity to chat online with the advisor through Yahoo! IM. The advisor advertises set times, once a week, to be online and the students write directly to advisor\_iiehanoi with their questions. We are hoping that this will give students who do not live in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh city and those who simply do not have the time to come in to the office, an opportunity to have live advising sessions.

## **IIE VIETNAM PUBLISHES ITS FIRST NEWSLETTER**

IIE Vietnam published its first newsletter in February. The newsletter was sent to American and Vietnamese institutions and partners with which IIE Vietnam works closely. The newsletter is available on the website in both English and Vietnamese. Plans are in the works for giving the website a new makeover and offering a Vietnamese version as well. When you have time, please take a look: [www.iievn.org](http://www.iievn.org)

## **AMERICAN ENGLISH ADVENTURE**

In another effort to expand IIE's services and bring more students to the office, we recently started an English-speaking round table in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. Practicing English and hearing native English accents is in great demand in Viet Nam, and these sessions provide an informal and free venue for this. Additionally, such a program helps cultivate relationships between students who come to IIE, and generates stimulating and thoughtful discussion on the differences between American and Vietnamese culture.

## **AMERICAN ENGLISH ADVENTURE KICK-OFF IN HCMC**

IIE Ho Chi Minh City and the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Consulate General hosted the first session of American English Adventure. Over 60 participants attended the session, which focused on topics celebrating Black History Month, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech and the civil rights movement.



*Participants in HCMC's first American English Adventure session*

Students gave presentations on various themes prepared in advance, including Dr. King's life, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and the Little Rock Nine. The IIE

Advisor and Deputy Press and Cultural Attache moderated the session and fielded challenging questions about African-American history in the U.S. IIE plans to continue to host a series of American English Adventures programs for Vietnamese participants in the advising offices as well as throughout Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City on diverse American cultural themes.

## **AMERICAN DAY IN DA NANG CITY**

IIE and the Public Affairs Section of the US Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City, in cooperation with the University of Da Nang, presented the first "American Day" to provide information about US culture and education to students in the central coast city of Da Nang.



*APAO Sean McIntosh, Da Nang University Vice Director Dr. Le The Gioi, and IIE Director Mark Ashwill participate in ribbon cutting ceremony*

American Day featured the poster exhibit "Images of America" and presentations on study in the US, the Fulbright program, the student visa process, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the Learning Resource Center and Information Resource Center. The Deputy Press and Cultural Attache with the Public Affairs Section delivered opening remarks at the poster exhibit and led an afternoon discussion on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his role in the civil rights and nonviolence movement. The IIE Ho Chi Minh City Student Advisor and Hanoi Fulbright Program Officer gave presentations on study in the US and the 2007-2008 Fulbright selection process. Finally, a Consular Officer closed with a presentation on the student visa process. Both sessions drew approximately 75-100 students, faculty members and local media. We hope to continue to work with our partners for additional American Days throughout Vietnam, in order to promote cultural understanding, provide information about educational opportunities, and strengthen the relationship between the US and Vietnam.